



Nov. 7, 2012

HEALTH ADVISORY

Department of Health Urges Health-Care Facilities to Prepare for Winter Storm

The North Dakota Department of Health is urging health-care facilities to take steps now to prepare for a possible winter storm this weekend. Those steps should include testing electrical generators and other emergency equipment and reviewing emergency plans and personnel expectations with staff. Facilities also should assure availability of adequate resources such as staff, fuel and essential supplies.

The National Weather Service predicts an extended period of winter weather and possible strong winter storm beginning Thursday night, Nov. 8, and continuing through Sunday, Nov. 11.

A strong storm system developing over the central Rockies will move onto the northern plains and spread a mix of wintry weather beginning Thursday night and continuing into the weekend. Northwest and north central North Dakota are favored for snow beginning Thursday night and continuing into Friday. Three to five inches of snowfall are expected.

A second and potentially more severe wave of winter weather is expected to impact west and central North Dakota beginning Friday night and continuing through Sunday morning. Up to a foot of snow is possible along and north of highway 2, while a mix of snow, sleet and freezing rain may occur farther south. A winter storm watch is in effect for all but far south central North Dakota Friday night through Sunday morning. There is still some uncertainty as to the eventual track of the storm and resulting amounts and location of snow and mixed precipitation; however, confidence is increasing that significant winter weather will occur over much of the state.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

- *Health Alert conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.*
- *Health Advisory provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.*
- *Health Update provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.*
- *Health Information provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.*

This message is being sent to local public health units, clinics, hospitals, physicians, tribal health, North Dakota Nurses Association, North Dakota Long Term Care Association, North

Dakota Healthcare Association, North Dakota Medical Association, and hospital public information officers.